

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 ACDA-07 L-03 NRC-05

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3536

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

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USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 3757

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECHN, ENRG, EEC, US

SUBJECT: INITIAL EC COMMISSION COMMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S
NUCLEAR POWER POLICY STATEMENT

1. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THE EC COMMISSION PRESS SPOKESMAN
COMMENTED IN RATHER GENERAL TERMS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S NUCLEAR
POWER AND ENERGY POLICIES AT THE NOON PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 14.
THE FULL TEXT OF HIS STATEMENT AS TRANSCRIBED BY THE COMMISSION
IS REPEATED BELOW: BEGIN QUOTE "PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT ON
NUCLEAR POLICY WILL, OF COURSE, BE STUDIED CAREFULLY. THERE WILL
BE ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING GENERAL US ENERGY POLICY WHICH
THE US GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO MAKE AROUND APRIL 20, AND WE SHALL
HAVE TO TAKE BOTH STATEMENT INTO ACCOUNT TOGETHER.

"WE NOTE AT THIS STAGE WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE PRESIDENT
DID RECOGNIZE EUROPE'S SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF BEING MUCH MORE DEPENDENT
ON IMPORTED FUELS THAN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT WE ARE ALMOST
TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS FOR OUR SUPPLIES OF URANIUM.

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"MR BRUNNER HAS ALREADY MADE THE POINT THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD
BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS ABOUT MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE PEACEFUL USES OF
ATOMIC ENERGY.

"AS REGARDS THE SUPPLY OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM, WE DO HOPE

THAT THESE SUPPLIES WILL NOW BE RESUMED.

"IN GENERAL, OF COURSE, WE SHARE THE AMERICANS' CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF PROLIFERATION." END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT. COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAVE STRESSED TO US THAT THE COMMISSION'S INITIAL PUBLIC STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S NUCLEAR POWER POLICY WAS FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS PURPOSELY KEPT RATHER BLAND WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REFLECTING COMMUNITY CONCERNS ABOUT DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY. ONE FACTOR WAS THE ABSENCE OF COMMISSIONER FOR ENERGY BRUNNER AND OTHER SENIOR EC OFFICIALS DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS, WHICH PREVENTED THE EXTENSIVE COORDINATION WITHIN THE COMMISSION AND BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND MEMBER STATES THAT MORE SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WOULD HAVE REQUIRED. FURTHERMORE, OUR COMMISSION SOURCES NOTED, THE COMMISSION WISHED TO AVOID ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH MIGHT DETRACT FROM WHAT COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS MAY SAY DURING HIS VISIT IN WASHINGTON OR FROM COMMENTS COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES MAY MAKE DURING THE US/EC CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS APRIL 20-21. JOHNSTON

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